

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
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A NEW ROCK VOLE FROM LABRADOR.

BY OUTRAM BANGS.

Early last summer Mr. Ernest Doane left Newfoundland and crossed the straits of Belle Isle to Black Bay, Labrador, where he has been collecting mammals ever since for the Bangs collection. Just before he went into winter quarters he sent one consignment of skins, including twelve examples of a rock vole which proves to be different from true *Microtus chrotorrhinus* (Miller). For the present I treat the new form as a subspecies. The rock vole has now been recorded from several pretty widely separated localities,* though it still remains one of the rarest and most desirable among the smaller mammals of northeastern North America.

The Labrador series includes four adults and eight young of various sizes, all agreeing closely in color. The new form differs from true *M. chrotorrhinus* in its paler, more yellowish gray coloring, in the larger and lighter yellow nose patches, and in sev-

* Mt. Washington (type locality—8 specimens); Profile Lake, N. H. (1 specimen), and Trowser's Lake, N. B. (1 specimen)—Miller, *Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, Mar. 24, 1894, pp. 190-193; Trowser's Lake (3 additional specimens) and Gulquac Lake, N. B. (1 specimen)—Allen, *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 1894, p. 360; Lake Edward, Quebec (9 specimens)—Bangs, *Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash.*, X, Mar. 9, 1896, p. 49; Breed's, Essex Co., N. Y. (27 specimens), and above Profile Lake, N. H. (1 specimen)—Batchelder, *Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, Oct., 1896, pp. 188, 189; Hunter Mountain, Catskills, N. Y. (1 specimen)—Mearns, *Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1898, p. 349.

eral well-marked and constant cranial and dental characters. It may be known as—

***Microtus chrotorrhinus ravis* * subsp. nov.**

Type from Black Bay, Labrador, ♂ old adult, No. 7951, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs. Collected July 15, 1898, by Ernest Doane.

Color and pelage.—Fur longer, softer, and more like *Phenacomys* than in *M. chrotorrhinus chrotorrhinus*; all the colors paler; upper parts pale grayish raw umber, somewhat darkened on back by a sprinkling of black-tipped hairs; nose and face back to eyes pale tawny ochraceous, this color suffusing much of head, especially about the ears; under parts gray, extending well up on sides and gradually blending with color of upper parts; feet and hands gray; tail dusky brown above, paler and grayer below, sparsely haired; whiskers black and yellowish white mixed.

Cranial and dental characters.—The skull, compared with that of true *M. chrotorrhinus*, is much more slender and more constricted between the orbits; rostrum more slender; incisive foramina longer; audital bullæ flatter, less inflated, more oblong, and less round. Pattern of enamel folding of molar teeth substantially the same; molars all much smaller and more delicate; incisors more slender.

Measurements.—The type, ♂ old adult; total length, 170; tail vertebrae, 50; hind foot, 22; ear from notch, 14. Averages of four adult topotypes, of both sexes: total length, 159.75; tail vertebrae, 46; hind foot, 21.25; † ear from notch, 12.5. Skull (type, ♂ old adult)—basal length, 24.8; occipito-nasal length, 26.6; zygomatic width, 15; mastoid width, 11.6; width between orbits, 3.6; length of nasals, 7.4; length of upper tooth row, 6; length of mandible, 16.4.

Remarks.—I find it very hard to express the differences in color between true *M. chrotorrhinus* and *M. c. ravis*, though they are evident enough when series of the two forms are laid side by side. Young examples show the differences in color quite as well as do adults.

Without a complete series from connecting localities, it seems better to regard *ravis* merely as a subspecies of *chrotorrhinus*, although the rock voles from Lake Edward, Quebec, are in every way inseparable from true *chrotorrhinus* from the type locality—Mount Washington, N. H.—and show no approach to the form of the coast of middle Labrador.

* *Ravis* = gray-yellow.

† The collector's measurements for foot run larger in *M. c. ravis* than in true *M. chrotorrhinus*. I can, however, detect no appreciable difference in the dried skins.